

conveyor units supplying said connecting station;

b. fixing said filament sheet section onto said two conveyor units at each of both end regions, with a fixing element attached to each of both end regions, said fixing elements being spaced apart and in relation to said two conveyor units such that said filament sheet section is, in its fixed state, positioned essentially flat between said two conveyor units at least immediately before entering the connecting station.

Claim 2 (Amended)

B ( Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 wherein said filament sheet section has a longitudinal dimension and said fixing elements are attached to said filament sheet section at a selectable angle to said longitudinal dimension for diagonal placement of said filament sheet section, between said conveyor units.

Claim 3 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 wherein said fixing step comprises hanging said fixing elements on holding needles affixed to said two conveyor units.

Claim 4 (Amended)


Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 wherein said fixing elements are produced by embedding each said end region in a rapidly hardening plastic.

Claim 5 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 wherein said fixing elements are produced by gluing each said end region.

Claim 6 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

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- a. Attaching a first fixing element to the filament sheet;
  - b. Attaching a second fixing element to the filament sheet to form a first filament sheet section and, simultaneously, a first subsequent fixing element to a subsequent filament sheet section;
  - c. Severing said first filament sheet section from said subsequent filament sheet section; and
  - d. Affixing said first and second fixing elements into holding needles affixed to said two conveyor units.

Claim 7 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 6 further comprising the step of applying a preset filament sheet tension before affixing said first and second fixing elements to said holding needles.

Claim 8 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 6 wherein said two conveyor units supply said connecting station at a supply speed and said filament sheet section is produced in coordination with said supply speed.

Claim 9 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in of claim 6 wherein a plurality of filament sheet sections are affixed on top of one another.

Claim 10 (Amended)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said filament sheet section consists of at least  $10^4$  filaments per cm of width.

Claim 11 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments, lying essentially in a plane, for the production of scrims in a connecting station, comprising in combination,

- a. a station for the production of premanufactured filament sheet sections having ends held by fixing elements at a preset interval,
- b. conveyor chains continuously supplying said connecting station,
- c. a placement means for placement of said filament sheet sections onto said conveyor chains,
- d. a holding means for at least temporary fixing of the placed filament sheet, said holding means being affixed to said conveyor chains in such a way that said filament sheet sections are held in such a way that said filament sheet sections are presented to said connecting station as an essentially flat surface.

Claim 12 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said holding means has at least one row of holding needles into which said fixing elements can be hooked.

Claim 13 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 12 wherein said holding needles are of a length such that more than one fixing element can be hooked in on top of one another.


Claim 14 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 12 wherein said holding needles are curved outwards and are located below rows of guide needles.

Claim 15 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said holding means has two opposing rows of holding needles, and the interval between said opposing holding needles increases for pretensioning of said filament sheet section.

Claim 16 (Amended)

 Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said holding means has two opposing rows of guide needles and two opposing rows of holding needles which supply said connecting station synchronously.

Claim 17 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said placement means comprises a gripper which can be moved and lowered, said gripper having at least one presser, at least one gripper, and at least one cutting knife.

Claim 18 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said station for production fuses said fixing elements onto said filament sheet section.

Claim 19 (Amended)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said filament sheet section has a longitudinal dimension and said fixing elements are attached to said filament sheet section at a selectable angle to said longitudinal dimension for diagonal placement of said filament sheet section.

Claim 20 (Amended)

B<sup>1</sup> Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 further comprising a control unit provided for control of said placement unit and said station for production.

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Claim 21 (New)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

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- a. Attaching a first fixing element to the filament sheet;
  - b. Attaching a second fixing element to the filament sheet to form a first filament sheet section and, simultaneously, a first subsequent fixing element to a subsequent filament sheet section;
  - c. Affixing said first and second fixing elements into holding needles affixed to said two conveyor units; and
  - d. Severing said first filament sheet section from said subsequent filament sheet section.

Claim 22 (New)

Method for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments as described in any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said filament sheet section consists of heavy tows.

Claim 23 (New)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said holding means has at least one row of holding needles into which said fixing elements can be pressed.

Claim 24 (New)

Apparatus for the placement and fixing of a sheet of filaments for the production of scrims as described in claim 11 wherein said station for production embeds said fixing elements onto said filament sheet section.